

# **FISCAL NOTE**

## **SB 452 - HB 1449**

April 11, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Allows the state board of education to issue grants to local education agencies (LEAs) for supplemental social worker positions if the LEA meets the following requirements:

1. The LEA uses its basic education program (BEP) funding to maintain a ratio of at least one school social worker per 2,000 student in average daily membership; and
2. The student population serviced by such LEA is consistently characterized by high concentrations of economically disadvantaged, special education and/or minority students; and
3. The student dropout rate within such school district is significantly above the overall dropout rate within the state.

When combined with BEP social worker funding, the effect of such grant must not exceed the recommended school social worker/student population ratios contained within the National Association of Social Workers Standards for School Social Work Services. (In this category, the ratio would be one social worker for every 500 students.) If applications exceed available resources, the board would prioritize grants based on the greatest need. The provisions of the bill would only apply to the extent that funding is specifically provided in the General Appropriations Act.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

#### **Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000 Over-Time**

The BEP formula currently contains a component that produces funding for one school social worker per 2,000 ADM. The bill requires LEAs to maintain this ratio before being allowed to apply for a supplemental grant. Currently, there are four LEAs that meet this requirement.

The second requirement of having a high concentration of economically disadvantaged, special education and/or minority students, is also met by these four LEAs overall.

None of the four LEAs meet the third (student dropout rate) requirement; therefore, no LEA would currently be eligible to apply for a supplemental grant for school social workers.

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Therefore, as the bill is written, no LEA's would receive any funding at the present time. However, to the extent LEA's become eligible for these grants at a later date, state expenditures are estimated to increase. Such increase is dependent upon the number of LEA's becoming eligible, the number of social workers required and the amount of grants awarded. Although the number of such grants cannot be determined, it is estimated that appropriations exceeding \$100,000 annually would be needed.

For information purposes, \$14,710,730 is currently allocated to the school social worker component of the BEP and funds approximately 455 positions. However, these funds are not required to be spent on social worker positions.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director